



WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU

FACT SHEET

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12th STREET SW
WASHINGTON DC 20554

PR5000

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USE OF CHANNEL 9 AS A SECOND CALLING CHANNEL

The Commission amended Part 80 of its Rules to permit the use of VHF Marine channel 9 to be used as an optional second calling channel by noncommercial vessels and private coast stations in the Maritime Radio Services. See PR Docket No. 91-167, 7 FCC Rcd 2618 (1992). The following information is intended to clarify questions often asked by the maritime community.

> The use of channel 9 for calling purposes, by both noncommercial vessels and private coast stations, is optional. Both vessels and coast stations may continue to use channel 16 for calling, and channel 9 as a working channel, if they choose to do so.

> Channel 9 will be permitted nationwide for calling. Distress calls must be made on channel 16. Further, calls to bridges and locks must be made on channel 16, or the bridge to bridge channel.

> Private coast stations presently assigned channel 9 as their working frequency may modify their licenses, without fee, to add an additional working channel. **This modification will not renew the existing term of the license. Any modification beyond the added frequency will require a fee.** Licensees wishing to modify, without fee, should send FCC Form 503 to Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245, clearly marked "FEE EXEMPT: Pr Docket No. 91-167".

> Private coast stations not currently assigned channel 9 may use channel 9, in addition to channel 16, without modification to their current license. As present license terms expire, coast stations will automatically be renewed by our licensing staff to permit operation on both channels 9 and 16, in addition to a working channel.

> The changes adopted in PR Docket No. 91-167 became effective June 7, 1992.

For additional assistance, contact the FCC's National Call Center at 1-888-CALLFCC (1-888-225-5322).

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